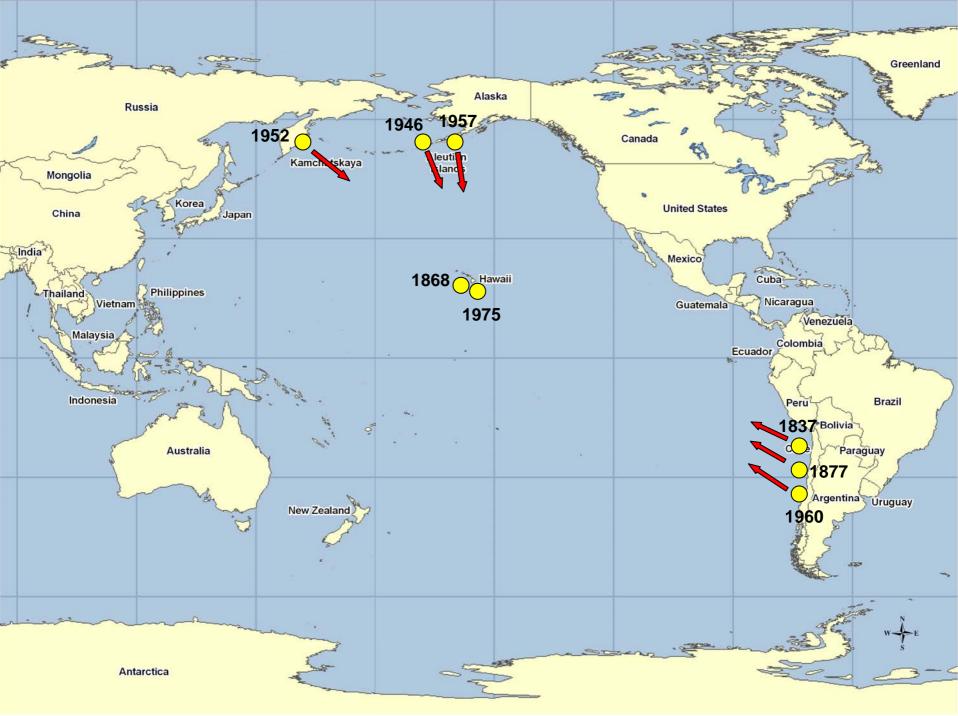


Severe Tsunami Impacts on Hawai'i



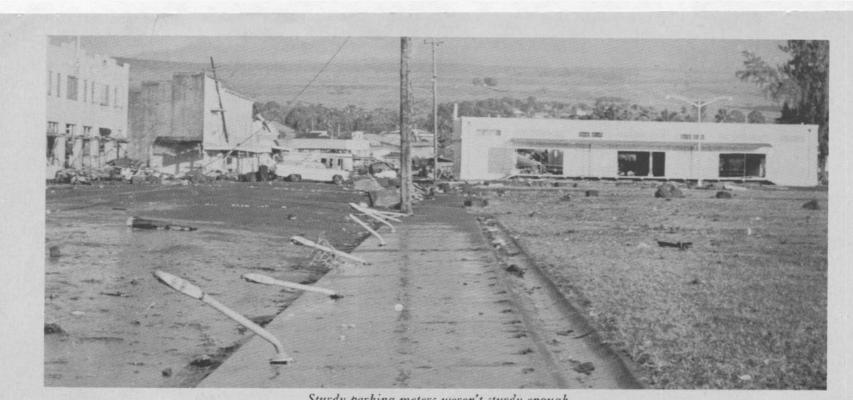
The clocks stopped—and so did nearly everything else in Hilo-when the wave struck shortly after 1 a.m., Monday, May 23, 1960.











Sturdy parking meters weren't sturdy enough.







Hilo after 1960 tsunami



Hilo after 1960 tsunami







Tsunami of 1960





Tidal Wave Disaster Points Up Flaws In Warning System

Rescue Efforts Uncoordinated

Many of them died quickly and mercifully.

Others met their death in agony beneath the tangled wreckage of their homes.

Some of the injured were trapped until dawn, their paln inereasing, their cries unanswered, their hopes fading.

Friends and relatives removed some of the victims from the wreckage, volunteers aided a few and police officers freed many. But there was no organized, concerted rescue drive in the Hilo disaster from the time the wave hit until dawn.

There is this entry on the log of Civil Defense headquarters in Hilo, timed at 3:25 a.m., a little over two hours after the wave

"Order issued that no one is to enter the area until daylight." A policeman on duty outside devastated Walakea town told a reporter at about 4 a.m.;

"There is a family trapped in their house but they won't get out until daylight because we are afraid another wave may hit and we don't have proper lights."

Other police officers acted more rapidly.

police.

* * *

Rescue efforts in the downtown area began soon after the wave hit and many officers worked in the Kimiville area.

But the workers were too few, too disorganized and too poorly equipped to reach all the victims in time.

A tsunami authority, had one been used, probably would have told officials that wave action in the bay after the big wave was normal turbulence and another wave would not hit.

And a few portable searchlights would have worked wonders had they been available.

An indication of the number of people trapped and the effectiveness of one good light and three men came from Kimiville. John Aubuchon, deputy superintendent of Hawaii National Park, and Park Ranger Bob Barrel, offered their services to

The Park officials were equipped with a nine-volt portable searchlight which Aubuchon carried.

With an unidentified police officer, they entered the Kimiville area at 2 a.m.

When they left two hours later they had freed 18 victims from the wreckage.

There apparently was no store of serviceable lights available and no advance plans to call on plantations half an hour away for tractors equipped for night harvest work which would have been invaluable in probing the wrecked areas,

A lack of advance planning raised Hilo's death toll.



TSUNAMI OBSERVERS-This picture was taken at the Hukilau Restaurant by Tribune-Herald photgrapher Larry Kadooka as the first wave of the May 23 tsunami swept inland.

The crouched figure in the foreground apparently is attempting to grab fish which were swept in by the wave. Supervisor James Hamasaki, with camera, looks on.

Many Confused By New System

Many of them died in their sleep.

Others were trapped in their homes as they drank coffee, watched television or just waited.

And there were the sightseers who thronged the waterfront areas and watched the water ebb out of the bay, a sure sign of Impending disaster.

Why didn't Hiloans leave the low areas when the alert sirens

Why did parents keep their children at home to die?

The answers are varied and combine into a picture of mass mental indecision, confusion and misinformation.

The sirens in the waterfront network sounded a series of five blasts between 8:30 and 8:50 p.m.

This warning was in accordance with a plan adopted by Civil Defense on a statewide basis in March 1959.

Previously the sirens had been sounded in two cycles, an early

CONTRACTOR STORY BEHIND THE STORY

The careful research and reporting of Ed Engledow and Ed Edwards in today's stories about the disaster warning system are outlined in an editorial on page 4.

warning and then a final warning just before the wave was due

Big Island officials and residents of the Hilo waterfront vigorously opposed the change, contending that people were accustomed to the old system which had worked effectively in the past.

A lack of knowledge of the change comes up frequently in a survey being conducted by the Hawaii Island chapter of the Academy o Science, whose members were greatly disturbed by the refusa f many to evacuate their homes.

The gro is attempting to interview everyone who was displaced. It rmation gathered will not be evaluated until the

survey is a mplete. The eval ees are asked such questions as how they received

the warning and why they did not leave their homes,

These are some of the startling answers: A victim, whose education includes some college training,

"waited for further warning."

A family who weathered the 1946 wave in the same area "didn't think it would come as far as our house."

A Kimiville resident was listening to the radio and "didn't think it sounded urgent."

TIME TO INSIST ON ANSWERS TO A MAJOR ISLAND PROBLEM

From both sides of the political fence come demands that the warning system mess be cleaned up.

And from Peter Pakele, hardworking Civil Defense director here, comes word that his plan to improve the local warning system has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

Nearly everybody agrees that the system is much less than the community has a right to expect.

The Big Island in particular—because it has suffered so deeply—applauds the quick action of its own Senate President William H. Hill and of Elmer F. Cravalho, speaker of the House.

Both have said they will consider special investigation of the problem.

There actually is more than one

problem.

The Tribune-Herald was the first to point out the need for an international warning system. Last month's devastating wave originated in Chile, but we knew virtually nothing about it except that it was on the way.

This is the time for Federal funds to be made available for research into habits of seismic waves with a view to developing a device for tracking them. Studies of our apparent susceptibility to waves also are indicated. This is more than a local problem, and immediate Federal action seems proper.

The local warning and disaster relief program poses another problem, one that is related to waves but one that could be related to enemy at-

tack.

The State's investigation should be concerned with seeking remedies, and must not be destroyed by politi-

There must be a clearly-understood plan of action and authority right here on the Big Island in the event of another disaster. Everyone must know who gives the orders and how the local mechanism operates if disaster should result in a breakdown of communications between the Big Island and Oahu.

Fast action is imperative.

Disaster may strike at any time.

We're not ready for it now.





The clocks stopped—and so did nearly everything else in Hilo—when the wave struck shortly after I a.m., Monday, May 23, 1960.

The Big Wave-May 23, 1960

Nearly everyone on the Big Island of Hawaii was listening to radio reports being broadcast from Honolulu, some 200 miles away.

Announcers said that an earthquake in far-off Chile had generated a seismic sea wave. The wave might be dangerous to Hawaii, because it might not wear itself out even after travelling 6.700 miles at high speed.

Many people left their homes in low areas. Others were packed and ready to flee, waiting for some kind of "final warning."

In Hilo, principal city on the Big Island, many waited for word of wave action at South Point some 70 miles closer to Chile.

Everyone waited through a long Sunday night. Then, a little after midnight, a Hilo Tribune-Herald reporter phoned his office.

There was water on Banyan Drive in the Waiakea Peninsula area of Hilo, he said. The time was about 12:20 a.m.

There were two more waves, but no flash of danger from South Point.

Then there came a sound like an express train approaching. It was no train, because the Big Island's railroads were wiped out in the 1946 tidal wave.

I was sitting in my office at the Tribune-Herald, two blocks from Kamehameha Avenue. On the other side of Kamehameha Avenue is Mooheau Park, beyond that a bayfront drive and then the water of Hilo Bay.

When I heard the roar I raced out of the building and onto Mamo Street, where I started toward the bay. The street was almost deserted. Policemen prevented the curious from entering the area, but the press was admitted. I was headed toward the intersection of Mamo and Keawe Streets, one block closer to the bay than the Tribune-Herald Building.

Just a few minutes earlier I had stood there talking with the policemen and wondering why more people weren't evacuating the area.

But before I could get more than a few yards down the slope of Mamo Street I saw it.

The streetlights were still on. Suddenly they were overwhelmed by The Big Wave, the fourth one of the early-morning hour. It was as high as a two-story building.

There wasn't long to look at it.

With bizarre flashes like the lightning of a dozen low-hanging thunderstorms all piercing the sky at once, the street lights and all the other lights in the waterfront district went out.

The roar of the massive wall of water blended with the crashing of dozens of stores and apartments and theatres and restaurants—and with the screams of dozens of persons for whom the final noisy warning came in the same moment with death.

I ran up the hill of Mamo Street, more frightened than I can now even recall.

My wife told me later that she had been watching the downtown area from our home in the hills beyond the city. She said it looked as though the whole rown had exploded. The biggest burst came from the Hilo "I thought my home was safe because the 1946 tsunami did not come here. When I saw a lot of people by the pier, I thought I must be safe or they would not stay there."

- Mrs. Ito, tsunami survivor

Tsunami of 1975

What tsunami? Alert system told little

By BRUCE BENSON dvertiser Staff Writer

I feit decidedly unhappy with myself as we stepped off our boat at the Ala Wai Harbor and headed for high ground. The newspaper had called about 10 minutes earlier, reporting that a The newspaper and called about 10 minutes earlier, reporting that an earth-quake hit the Big Island, causing the water to recede from Hill Bay.

water to recede from Hilo May.

My frustration grew out of feeling foolish about abandoning the harbor when
everything seemed so tranquil, yet worrying about the consequences of worrying about the consequences of doing nothing — and getting struck by a

uozi wave at the cock.

I thought, "My boy, you've been watching too many disaster movies." watching too many disaster movies."
We gathered camera and film, and started toward the exterior elevator that rides to the top of the Ilikai Hotel.
"Umm, would it be safe up there?"

I WAS PARTICULARLY annoyed at the pleasant calm of a sunny Saturday the pressure varie of a summy Saturday morning. Everything normal. Last week's storm gone. The radio full of its week's starm gone, the range run of his commercials and music. No marine commercials and music. We marine warnings on the recorded message of the

weather service.

Surfers were lifting their boards off a battered VW van. And here we were. battered VW van. And nere we were, heading for high ground. Because if the quake had generated a tsunami, I knew that it would arrive at Maui in about 20 pages at Cohen in about 20 milester. minutes; at Oahu in about 35 minutes; and Kauai in about 50 minutes.

I also knew that no tsunami alert system was in use for a locally produced wave when the Islands were last at risk

The regional alert system is based on the regional agent system is based on the idea of hooking up tide gauges and seismometers to the Honolulu Observaseismometers to the Honoiulu Observa-tory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, By tele-phone lines and radio transmission, data prione lines and radio transmission, data on quakes and rapid tidal changes can be sent to the observatory.

IF IT ALL spells a tsunami, the obser-IF IF ALL spens a tsunami, the observatory calls civil defense, which then can warn residents along the Island chain to head for high ground. In 1973, this system was not yet hooked up for lack of estimated \$45,000. I had no idea yesterday morning whether the seismologists and budget makers had

gotten the thing worked out.

So, feeling even more foolish, I quickly called a few friends with boats in the harbor to give warning before leaving

our own vessel.

Thoughts of Chicken Little were very
much on my mind as we gazed out from
the upper lanal of the little was a few management.

Just a few management land.

Just a few moments later, I felt redeemed. A live newscast came over the transistor radio from Hilo, reporting that the Big Island had been badly shaken up. Authorities at that moment were evacuating residents from the Hilo Bay area and emptying the hotels of

AS THE DAY developed, it turned out that indeed there had been what the seismologists called "tidal action" induced the property of the seismologists and the seismologists called "tidal action" induced the seismologists and seismologists and seismologists and seismologists are seismologists. mongasts caned until action monced by the quake. It was relatively minor, but waves traveling unannounced at 300 miles an hour or more set up these unof-ficially reported tidal variations:

- e Kona-1 foot.
- e Maalaea Bay, Maui 3 to 5 feet.
- Honolulu Harbor 6 inches. o Lihue - 1 foot.

Herman J. Wirz, director of the Honolucal alert system is largely in operatoon, although certain segments must still be hooked up.

But the conclusions I drew from yesterday's events include these:

 If a disastrous tsunami or tsunami ike wave ever is spawned from a local earthquake, it will be essential to know earthquase, it will be essential to know about it immediately so that residents down the Island chain will have at least

a few minutes to head for high ground.

The local alert system should either. announce that there is danger, or that announce may there is danger, or may there is not. Yesterday it did neither, leading a worried sailor to hear on the radio about the evacuation on the Big Island while there was no concomitant notice of impending trouble in Honolulu.

California Tsunami Warning of 2005

"In Santa Monica, officials thought it was 'just informational, only a bulletin,' said Police Sgt. Jeff Wiles. Assuming that they would receive an update if the situation became more serious, city officials decided not to open their emergency operations center."

Los Angeles Times
June 16, 2005

"In Huntington Beach, the police watch commander on duty had trouble interpreting the bulletins and wasn't sure whether a tsunami warning was actually in effect. 'They were confusing to read through,' said Lt. Craig Junginger."

Los Angeles Times

June 16, 2005

"Lon Waxstein, commander in the Half Moon Bay Police Department, said he didn't think there was a reason for panic. 'People need to get a grip,' he said."

Los Angeles Times

June 15, 2005

"Larry Collins, the Los Angeles County Fire Department captain on the county's tsunami task force, said, 'We don't have a consistent plan statewide or even county-wide. Right now, some places evacuate and others don't. Each city makes their own rules, and there's no governing body that says, 'You will operate consistently like this,' he added."

Los Angeles Times

June 15, 2005

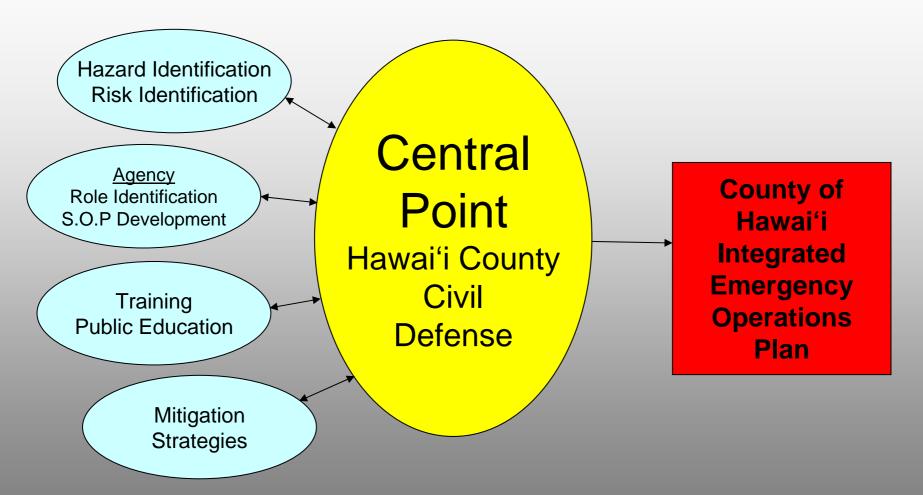
"In Crescent City, there were several reported car accidents as people jammed the roads, trying to make their way out of town, said resident Calvin Maready. Others decided to go down to the beach, to wait for the waves. 'I don't know what was going through their heads,' he said."

Associated Press

June 16, 2005

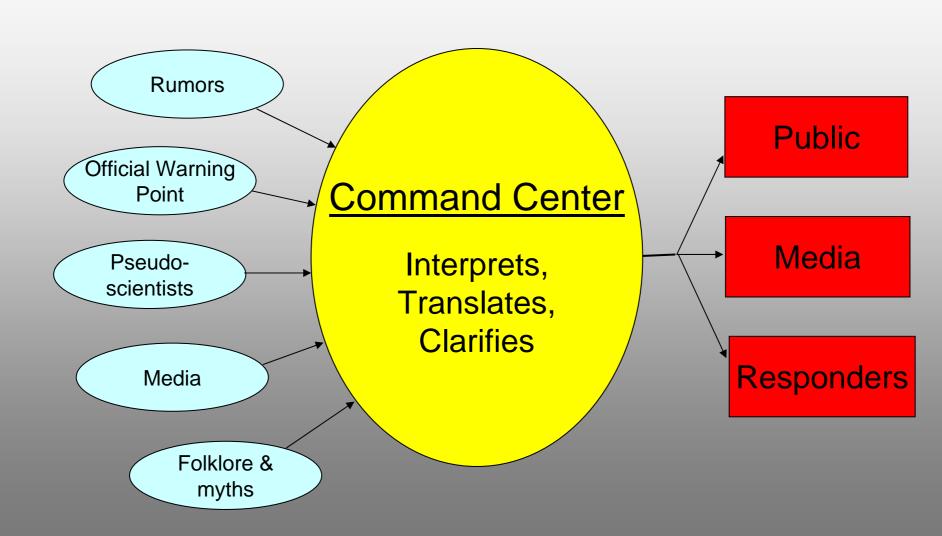


System and Plan Development

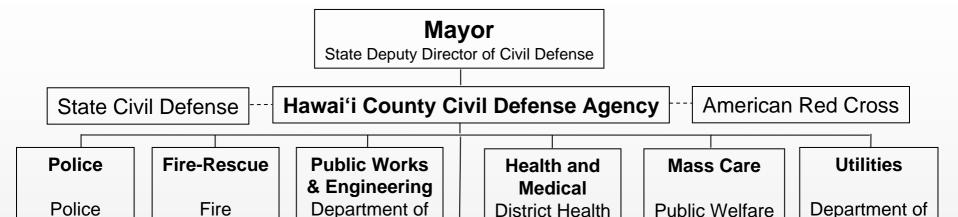


All department and agencies are responsible for developing and maintaining supporting disaster response plans in consonance with this Basic Plan.

Coordination of Information Releases



County of Hawai'i Disaster Response Organization



Support Organizations

Department

County Departments and Agencies

Department

Dept. of Civil Service
Dept. of Finance
Planning Department
Dept. of Liquor Control
Dept. of Parks and
Recreation
Corporation Counsel
Transit Agency
Office of Aging
Other County Agencies
(as needed)

State District and Branch Offices

Public Works

Dept. of Acctg. & Gen. Svcs.
Dept. of Agriculture
Dept. of Bus. & Econ. Dev.
Dept. of Comm. & Con. Affairs
Dept. of Corrections
Dept. of Defense
Dept. of Education
Dept. of Hawn Home Lands
Dept. of Labor & Ind. Relations
Dept. of Land & Natural Res.

University of Hawai'i

Office of Con. Protection

Cooperating Agencies

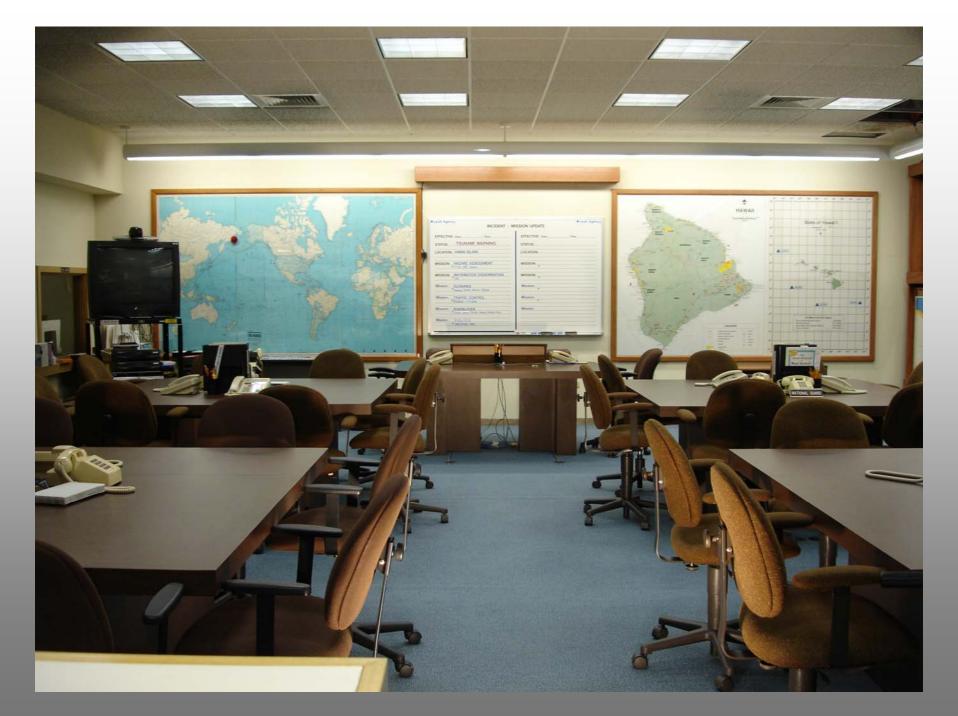
Branch (DHS)

Hawaiʻi Electric
Light Co.
Hawaiian Telcom
Gas Company
Civil Air Patrol
Boy/Girl Scouts
Religious Groups
Charitable Organizations
Tour Bus Companies
Fraternal Groups
Business & Professional
Associations
Labor Unions
YMCA-YWCA-YBA
Nursing Associations

Office (DOH)

EBS Station
Amateur Radio Club
Medical Groups
Civic & Service Groups
Coast Guard Reserve
Coast Guard Auxiliary
Salvation Army
News Media
Radio & Television
Broadcasting Stations
Trade Associations
Hotels and Resorts
Visitor Industry (HVB)
Private Schools
Other

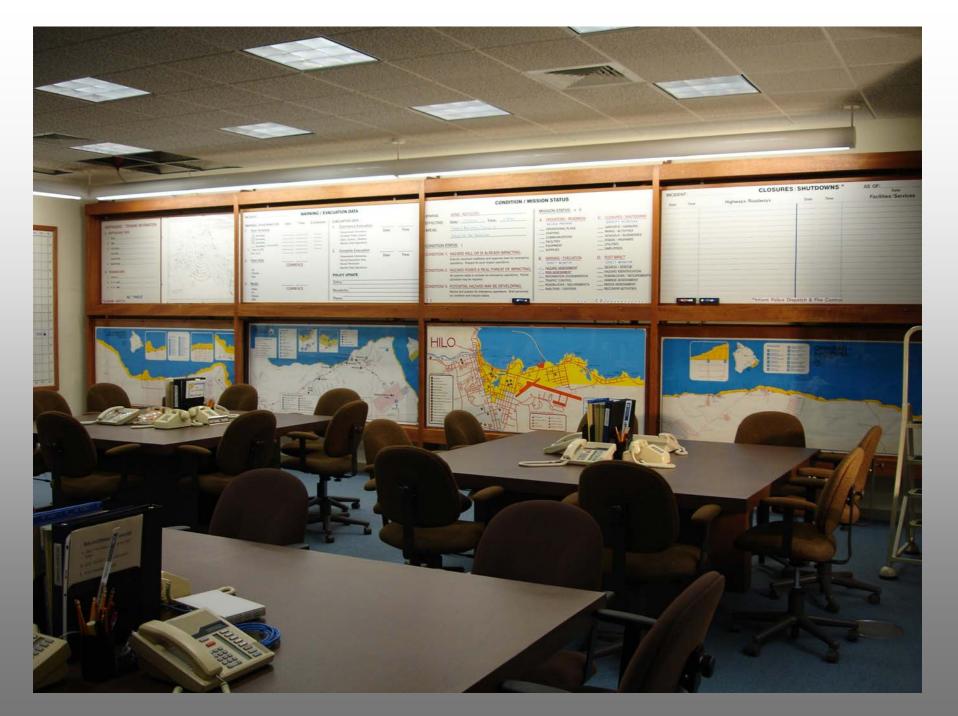
Water Supply







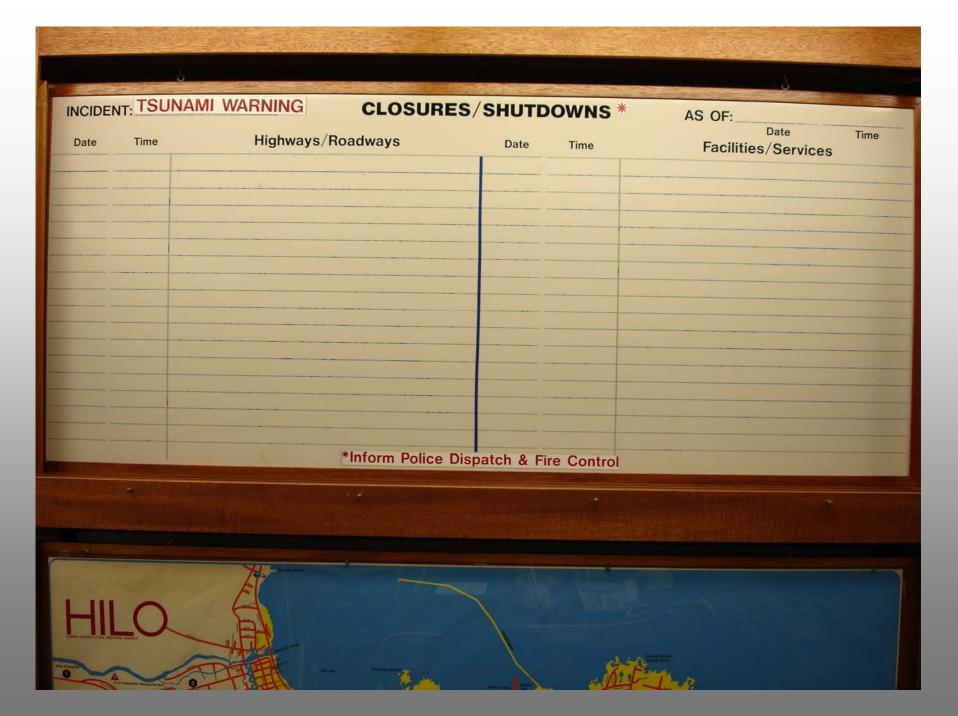




2006 4 28

EARTHQUAKE / TSUNAMI INFORMATION A. EARTHQUAKE DATA 1. DATE____ 2. TIME____ 3. LOCATION____ LATITUDE_ LONGITUDE 4. MAGNITUDE_____ B. TSUNAMI DATA 1. STATUS TSUNAMI WARNING 2. E.T.A. DATE 3. E.T.A. TIME

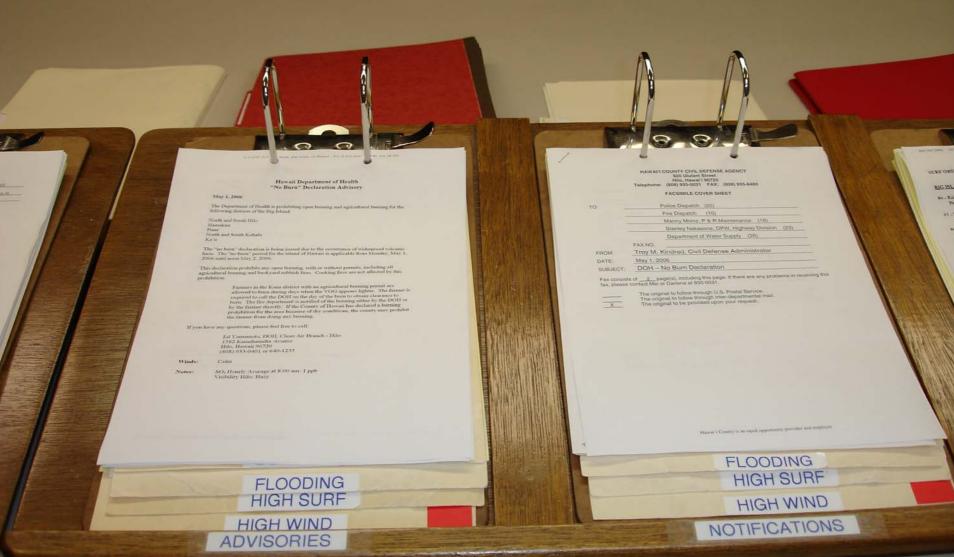
INCIDENT: TSUNAMI WARNING WARNING / EV	ACUATION DATA
WARNING DISSEMINATION Date Time Completed 1. Siren Schedule 1st Sounding 2nd Sounding 3rd Sounding — Sounding (1 HR TO ETA) //2 Hour to ETA Zero Hour 2. Field Units COMMENCE Air Ground Sea 3. Media Radio Printed EBS	EVACUATION DATA 1. Commence Evacuation Disseminate Information Establish Traffic Control Open Centers / Shelters Monitor Field Operations 2. Complete Evacuation Disseminate Information Secure Evacuation Area Secure Personnel Monitor Field Operations POLICY UPDATE Entry: Residents: Press:
HILO IN THE RESIDENCE ASSECTION ASSE	





1.	DISASTER CLASSIFICATION: Nature Of Disaster: Location: HAWAII ISLAND				Date:Secondary Threats:			AS OF:		Time
2.		CASUALTIES AND DISPLACED PERSONS:				Missing	Injured	Homeless	Evacuated	Sheltered
3.	3. ESTIMATED PRIVATE PROPERTY DAMAGE: Residence Business Agriculture Utilities Other						er	Totals		
	Minor							Ott)	51	Totals
	Major Destroyed									-
	Total Cost									
4.	ESTIMATED PUBLIC PROPERTY DAMAGE:									
	Minor	Buildings	Schools	Roads		Bridges	Water / Sewer	Othe	er	Totals
	Major									
	Destroyed									
	Total Cost									
5.	ESTIMATED G	RAND TOTAL PI	RIVATE & PUBLIC	PROPERTY	DAMAG	ES:				
					TRUE	CT TO SOLUTION OF THE PARTY OF				
			+	TE OF IN					THE R	











Educational programs



Educational programs

HO'OMĀKAUKAU

"Get Ready"

TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

Tsunamis are Hawaii's number one natural disaster killer, but if you learn and follow a few simple rules you can save your life and the lives of those around you - at home, at work, or at play - the next time these giant waves crash onto Hawaii's

Often the first sign of an approaching tsunami is the ocean receding from beaches and harbors. If you are at the shoreline and see this phenomenon, move inland to higher ground immediately. A destructive and potentially deadly wave may follow in less than a

A distant tsunami, one that is generated thousands of miles from Hawaii, may allow as little as three hours for the evacuation of coastal areas.

A locally generated tsunami, one caused by an earthquake or underwater landslide near Hawaii, may allow only minutes to evacuate. If you are near the shore and feel the ground shaking, move inland to higher ground as quickly as possible.

When a Tsunami WARNING is issued, emergency sirens will sound. Radio and TV stations will carry official shoreline evacuation instructions through the Emergency Alert System. Check the Tsunami Evacuation Maps on the following pages. If you are in an evacuation zone when the warning sounds, be prepared to move inland or, if you have access to a concrete and steel reinforced building, which is six stories or more in height, move to a location on the third floor or higher.

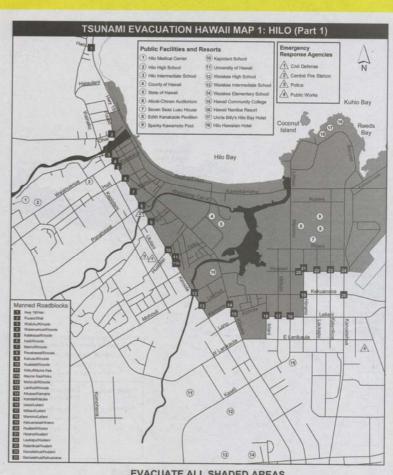
To avoid traffic gridlock, you may want to walk out of the evacuation zone and then wait for further

If you are outside the evacuation zones, avoid nonessential travel. Do not use your telephone or cell phone except for emergencies.

All public schools in tsunami evacuation zones have emergency evacuation plans in place in the event of a Tsunami WARNING. Following the evacuation, you will be notified when and where to pick up

Civil Defense urges all businesses, private and governmental offices, private schools, and care centers in tsunami evacuation zones to develop and maintain tsunami evacuation plans.

The tsunami evacuation maps on the following pages are based on data from the tsunamis that hit Hawaii in the past and represent the best information available at this time. State Civil Defense, in partnership with the University of Hawaii, is currently updating the evacuation maps using the latest scientific techniques and technology. That project may take several years. We urge everyone to apply common sense when using these maps. If you live just outside an evacuation zone - marked as a shaded area on the map - prudence would dictate that you consider evacuating during a tsunami warning.



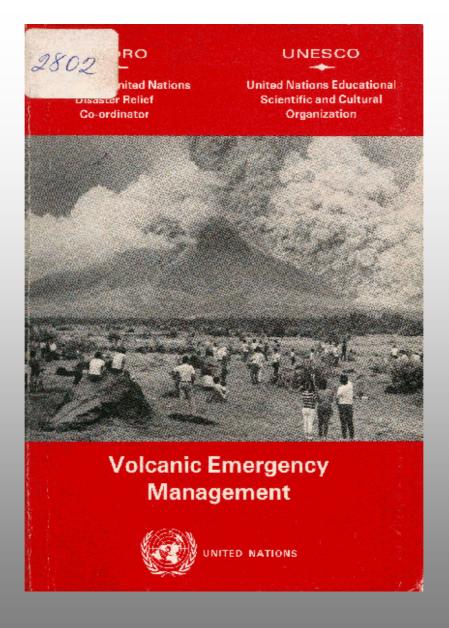
GIID

PREPAREDNESS

DISASTER

EVACUATE ALL SHADED AREAS





http://www.crid.or.cr/crid/CD_Volcanes/pdf/eng/doc2802/doc2802.htm

